and

displaying, with the client, the obtained messages in a first discrete display area.

2. (TWICE AMENDED) An information exchange system in which user terminals are configured for connection to a plurality of chat networks to transmit and receive messages through the plurality of chat networks, the user terminals having a message display area displaying messages transmitted and received to/from each of the plurality of chat networks, comprising:

designation means designating at least one chat network of the plurality of chat networks as an active chat network for receiving messages transmitted by a user terminal;

message acquiring means of the user terminal for acquiring messages transmitted and received to/from each of the plurality of chat networks;

and

message displaying means of the user terminal for displaying, the acquired messages in a discrete display area independent of the message display area of each of the plurality of chat networks.

3. (TWICE AMENDED) An information exchange system in which user terminals are configured for connection to a plurality of chat networks to transmit and receive messages through the plurality of chat networks, the user terminals having a message display area displaying messages transmitted and received to/from each of the plurality of chat networks, comprising:

designation means designating at least one chat network of the plurality of chat networks as an active chat network for receiving messages transmitted by a user terminal;

message acquiring means of the user terminal for acquiring messages transmitted and received to/from each of the plurality of chat networks;

message displaying means of the user terminal for displaying, the acquired messages in a discrete display area independent of the message display area of each of the plurality of chat networks; and

message transmission cooperating means of the client for transmitting one of the messages, when the message displayed by said message displaying means is identified for message transmission, to one of the chat networks in the plurality of chat networks to which said identified message is transmitted.

13. (ONCE AMENDED) A method, comprising:

obtaining a plurality of messages to be transmitted or received by a chat client over at least two chat networks to which the chat client is connected;

concentrating the obtained messages; and

independently displaying the concentrated messages together in a discrete display area in a time series basis.

14. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable storage controlling a computer by,

obtaining a plurality of messages to be transmitted or received by a chat client over at least two chat networks to which the chat client is connected;

concentrating the obtained messages; and

independently displaying the concentrated messages together in a discrete display area in a time series basis.

15. (ONCE AMENDED) An apparatus, comprising:

a communication unit obtaining a plurality of messages to be transmitted or received over at least one of a plurality of designated chat networks;

a processing unit concentrating the obtained messages; and

a display unit independently displaying the concentrated messages together in a discrete display area in a time series basis.

16. (NEW) A method according to claim 1, wherein the displaying comprises displaying messages of both chat networks in the discrete display area independent of another display area for displaying messages of only one of the chat networks.

17. (NEW) A method according to claim 1, wherein the discrete display area is

separate from another display area that is dedicated to the active chat network.

18. (NEW) A method of displaying messages in a chat client, comprising:

connecting the chat client to a first chat channel of a first chat network;

connecting the chat client to a second chat channel of a second chat network; and

displaying in a discrete display area of the client, messages received by the chat client from the first and second chat channels.

19. (NEW) A method according to claim 18, further comprising using the client to display, in a chat display area dedicated to displaying messages of an active chat channel, the messages received from the first chat channel, where the active chat channel is the first chat channel.

20. (NEW) A method according to claim 19, further comprising:

setting the first chat channel as the active chat channel by interactively selecting a message of the first chat channel that is displayed in the discrete display area.

21. (NEW) A method of displaying chat messages, comprising changing a chat client's current active chat network from a first chat network to a second chat network in response to and based on interactively selecting a previously displayed chat message of the second chat network.

22. (NEW) A chat client simultaneously connecting to at least two distinct and autonomous chat networks, comprising:

a first message display area capable of displaying only chat messages of a first of the chat networks;

a second message display area capable of displaying only messages of a second of the chat networks; and

a third message display area simultaneously displaying some messages of the first chat network and some messages of the second chat network, where the client responds to interactively selecting the first chat network by displaying or making active the first message display area.